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IU Professor Denies He Was a CIA Spy

Special to The Louisville Times

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — An Indiana University professor last night categorically denied a Soviet charge that he has cooperated with the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in "the dirty cause of espionage."

Prof. Robert F. Byrnes of the history department and director of IU's International Affairs Center also rejected charges that a cultural exchange program he directs is a CIA spy front.

Dr. Byrnes said the Russian spy charges might even lead the Inter-University Committee on Travel Grants to recall about 31 American students—including two IU students—now in Russia.

Byrnes is chairman of the Inter-University Committee which directs a student-exchange program with Russia and Eastern European countries for some 50 colleges and universities.

Says CIA Doesn't Sway Policy

At a campus press conference last night, Byrnes said the Inter-University Committee "has no ties with the CIA. We have never received funds from the CIA."

He said "Neither the CIA nor any other American governmental organiza-



Prof. Byrnes

tion has any influence on the policies of the Inter-University Committee."

The Communist Party newspaper Pravda charged that some American professors—among them two other former IU faculty members—and students in Russia were recruited by the CIA for espionage.

Pravda said Byrnes tried to stir up American exchange students on a recent trip to Moscow with talks on "some sort of mystical Russian provocations" and thereby "succeeded in causing nervousness among the group of American participants, seeding suspicion and distrust for Soviet people among them."

Byrnes labeled all charges as "vicious and irresponsible."

He said he had recently returned from a 25-day tour of Russia and several satellite countries, and got the impression that East-West cultural relations had never been better.

He said he did meet in the U.S. embassy with American exchange students and cautioned them that Russia was "a difficult and dangerous country" where the government would take advantage "of the slightest slip of any kind" by an American citizen.

Pravda implicated Albert Todd, now an instructor at Queens College in New York City; and Edward L. Keenan, now of Harvard, who had been a student and visiting lecturer at IU.

Both men denied all the Russian charges.

The names of the two IU students currently in Moscow as part of the Inter-University exchange program were not known.